

THE MESSAGE OF PROPHET  
MOHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

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**THE MESSAGE OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM)**

By Professor Khurshid Ahmad

The message of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) was not something new. He presented Islam, the religion of humanity, the religion of all the Apostles of God, The vagaries of time and the exigencies of the course of history had cast layers of dust upon the paragon of true religion. Muhammad removed the dust and washed the diamond clean. Man had twisted and distorted the true teachings of the Prophets, he (Muhammad) restated the creed of One God in its comprehensive entirety, with nothing superfluous, nothing lacking. The Quran enjoins Muhammad to say:

"The message I bring to you is nothing new. It is the true religion of Abraham, of Moses and Isaac and Jacob and Jesus, in fact all the prophets of God."

But as man had lost the thread of true Divine Guidance, he was, led astray and the estrangement had run so deep that the teachings of Muhammad seemed new. New they were not; revolutionary they were.

The prophet called the people to the concept of Tawheed (belief in one God). This one word sums up the teachings of Islam. It is the essence of Muhammad's creed. Tawheed means that there is one supreme Lord of the universe. He is Omnipotent, the Sustainer of the world and the mankind. He is the Creator of the world, the Lord of the universe, the Sovereign, the All powerful.

How can one who observes the inexhaustible creativity of nature, its purposefulness, its conscious relativeness, its preservation of that which is morally useful and destruction of that which is socially injurious, fail to draw the conclusion that behind nature lives an All pervading Mind of whose incessant creative activity the processes of nature are but outward manifestations? The stars scattered through almost infinite space, the vast panorama of nature with charm and beauty stealing into the hearts, the planned waxing and waning of the sun, the astonishing harmony of the seasons and the days and nights, the incessant supply of water, the delicate flowers and crystals-beneath our feet all point towards one fact: there is a God, the Creator, the Governor. We witness a superb flawless plan in the universe; can it be without a planner? We see great enchanting beauty and harmony in its working; can they be without a designer? We feel lofty purpose in physical and human existence; can it be without a will working behind it? We find that the universe is like a superbly written fascinating novel; can it be without an author? Truly:

"O' mankind : worship your Lord, who hath created you and those before you, so that ye may ward off (evil). Who hath appointed the earth a resting place for you, the sky a canopy; and causeth water to pour down from the heaven thereby producing fruits as food for you. And do not set up rival to Allah, when ye know (better)—(Al-Qu.ran Surah ii, 21 -22).

It is an important metaphysical concept and answers the riddles of the universe. It points to the supremacy of the law in the cosmos, the all pervading unity behind the manifest diversity. It presents a unified view of the world and offers the vision of an integrated universe. It is a mighty improvement upon the piecemeal views of the scientists and the philosophers and unveils the truth before the human eye. After centuries of groping in the dark man is now coming to realise the truth of this concept and modern scientific thought is moving in this direction.

But it is not a mere metaphysical concept or a mere jumble of barren words. It is a dynamic belief, a revolutionary doctrine, a historic force and a communion with destiny.

It means that all men are the creatures of one God. They are equal. Distinction of colour, class, race or territory are sheer illusions. They are the remnants of the days of ignorance which had chained men down to servitude. Humanity is one single family of God and there can be no sanction for these barriers. Men are one and not Bourgeois or Proletariat, White or Black, Aryan or non-Aryan, Westerner or Easterner. Islam gives the revolutionary concept of the unity of mankind. The Prophet came to unite the humanity on the word of God and make the dead live again. Allah says: "Hold tight to the rope of God, all together, and never again fall out. Remember God's gifts and blessings unto you all. When you were enemies, remember how He forged your hearts together in love, and, by His grace, you became brethren at last." (A1 Quran Surah 3:102).

This concept also enunciates the true position of man in the universe. It says that God is the Creator, the Sovereign and man is his vicegerent on earth. This exalts man to the noble and dignified position of being God's deputy on earth and endows his life with a lofty purpose; to fulfill the will of God on earth. This will solve all the perplexing problems of human society and establish a new order wherein equity and justice and peace and prosperity will reign supreme.

This also means that man is not living an unbridled life. He will have to render accounts before his Lord for all that he does. This makes the human life a responsible venture and also provides the real sanction for morality.

Muhammad (Peace be upon him) called the humanity towards this principle of Tawheed. It brought out a revolution in human thought and action and man soared to the highest pinnacles of glory. And even today it can transform the human society and enrich it with all the blessings of the heavens and the earth only if it is honestly adhered to and lived.

The world has also suffered at the hands of the brilliant onesidedness of innumerable reformers. Some have laid emphasis at the spiritual side of life but have ignored the material and the mundane side. They have looked upon this world as an illusion, a deception a trap and a trash. On the other hand the materialists have totally ignored the spiritual and moral side of life and have dubbed it as a fiction and a figment of imagination. Both these attitudes have spelled disaster. They have robbed mankind of peace, contentment and tranquility. Even today this lack of balance and poise is manifest. It is being widely recognised that if humanity does not pause to set its house in order and reestablish the equilibrium, the march of man may turn out to be a tragic march towards death. French scientist Dr. DE BROUGBI rightly says:

"The danger inherent in too intense a material civilization, to sum up, is that civilization itself. It is the disequilibrium which would result, if a parallel development of the spiritual life were to fail to provide the needed balance."

LORD SNELL is more outspoken when he says, "We have built up a nobly proportioned outer structure, but we have neglected the essential requirements of an inner order; we have carefully designed, decorated and made clean the outside of the cup, but the inside was full of extortion and excess. We used our increased knowledge and power to administer to the comfort of the body, but we left the spirit impoverished." (The New World).

The message of the Holy Prophet aims at establishing an equilibrium and a balance between these two aspects of human life. He said that everything in the world is for you but your mission in life is to fulfil the will of God, His teachings catered to the spiritual as well as the temporal needs of men. He taught man how to purify his , soul and be in communion with the Reality and also to reform the mundane life, individual and collective both, and establish right over might and virtue over vice. He said that spiritual purity can be achieved only through submission to the Divine Will and in fashioning your life in such a way that it comes in accord with the Commandments of God. He ordered his followers to pray to God with complete submission, to observe fast and give alms with sincerest devotion, to meditate and love God with every fibre of their being. But he also said that all this would be of no avail if one is not kind to his children and fellow beings, dutiful and honest in his work, gentle in his behaviour, clean in his dealings, respectful to his elders, helpful to his neighbours and straight forward in his personal, social, political and other spheres of life.

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